

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Emergency Services	(2) MEETING DATE 12/10/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Ron Alsop 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, the revised San Luis Obispo County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (Clerk's Filed).			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board: 1) Receive a presentation on the updated and revised San Luis Obispo County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and 2) Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign the updated and revised Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Federal grant & General Fund	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$21,813.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$5,000.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ____) {X} Board Business (Time Est. 30 minutes)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions { } Contracts { } Ordinances {X} N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A { } 4/5 Vote Required {X} N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY {X} N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Guy Savage			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Emergency Services / Ron Alsop
781-5011

DATE: 12/10/2013

SUBJECT: Request to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, the revised San Luis Obispo County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (Clerk's file)

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board: 1) Receive a presentation on the updated and revised San Luis Obispo County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and 2) Approve and authorize the Chairperson to sign the updated and revised Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

DISCUSSION

The mounting cost of disaster recovery in our nation over past decades has engendered a renewed interest in uncovering effective ways to minimize our country's hazard vulnerability. Such interest led to, among other things, federal legislation requiring jurisdictions to develop and keep updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP). Not having an approved LHMP means that a jurisdiction will not be eligible to receive federal grants such as FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) project grants or to receive Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding. Such grants could include funds for flood control, fire prevention, or earthquake hazard mitigation.

The County's first Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) was initiated due to this federal requirement - which is referred to as the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000, or simply as DMA 2000. DMA 2000 stresses the importance of mitigation planning and disaster preparedness prior to an event. DMA 2000 requires local governments to develop and submit mitigation plans for natural hazards in order to qualify for the above noted and related mitigation grant programs for disasters declared after November 1, 2004.

Adoption of the LHMP by the local jurisdiction's governing body is one of the requirements of getting the plan accepted and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). After adoption by your Board, the LHMP must also be reviewed and approved by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) as well as FEMA.

The Board of Supervisors approved the original LHMP developed by the County in November 2005. That LHMP was then reviewed and approved by Cal OES; it was then passed on to and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in July 2006. Since then, the LHMP was updated in 2011, and was approved by the Board of Supervisors, Cal OES and FEMA in December 2011.

As with past versions of the LHMP, the goal of this plan is to arrive at practical, meaningful, attainable and cost-effective mitigation solutions to minimize vulnerability to the identified natural hazards and risks, with the ultimate goal to reduce both human and financial losses subsequent to a natural disaster.

Plan development included risk assessments being performed which identified and evaluated priority natural hazards which could impact the County. Historical hazard events are also described as is the future probability of these identified hazards occurring and their impact on communities within the county. Included vulnerability assessments summarize the

identified hazards' impact to critical structures, infrastructure, and future development.

The risk and vulnerability assessments were used to determine mitigation goals and objectives to minimize long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards and risks. These goals and objectives were the foundation behind the development of a comprehensive range of specific attainable mitigation actions.

An action plan was developed in 2005 and updated in 2011 and now with this 2013 revision which entails adopting, implementing, assigning responsibility, monitoring, and reviewing this hazard mitigation plan over time, to ensure the mitigation goals and objectives are being achieved and the plan remains a relevant document.

County OES assembled a planning team to participate in the update of the LHMP. Planning team members included representatives from OES, Public Health, Planning Department, Agriculture Commissioner's Office, Environmental Health, Air Pollution Control District, Cal Fire, and the Flood Control and Water Conversation District.

In addition to public agency input, on April 29, 2013 an online survey was released to initiate public engagement in the hazard mitigation planning process. Several avenues of media were used to advertise the online survey including a media press release, Facebook, Twitter, and agency websites. In addition, a local TV station made a brief broadcast encouraging community members to respond to the survey. The survey was closed on May 31, 2013 with 215 responses from various geographical locations within the County (the survey and its results are noted in the LHMP).

On August 19, 2013, a public review draft of this plan was released for comment. It was available for download via the County's Office of Emergency Services website and discussed at a publicly noticed study session of the County's Planning Commission on August 22, 2013. Comments were collected through September 6, 2013.

The public review comment period was announced via several media outlets including TV, radio, and internet news. Individuals who expressed interest in reviewing the plan through their survey responses were notified via direct email of the public review draft availability.

Several comments were also received from the public via the August 22 Planning Commission study session, and submittal of written comment letters. These were reviewed by the mitigation planning team and incorporated into this plan as appropriate.

In addition to the noted DMA 2000 requirements, there is a State law (referenced as AB 2140) which became effective in 2008 that requires LHMPs to be tied into General Plan Safety Elements in order to possibly be eligible for 100% of the State's share of any disaster recovery funds for public agencies. That is, after a State of Emergency declaration by the Governor existing law allows the State to provide 75% reimbursement to local public agencies for certain disaster response costs and recovery funding purposes. However, with many individual disasters in the past – including the San Simeon Earthquake – the State legislature has authorized the State to provide 100% reimbursement of the State's share of local agency costs for certain specific, individual disasters instead of the 75% written into existing law. Linking the General Plan Safety Element with the LHMP can simply be by reference, which will be asked of your Board by the Planning Department as a separate item on another date; it is noted here for reference purposes only.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

While development of the LHMP was coordinated by County OES, a consulting firm, Dewberry Consultants LLC, was used to prepare the plan. The earlier noted planning team worked with a Dewberry representative on development of the updated and revised LHMP.

As noted above, public participation was included as part of the planning process. In order for the plan to proceed for formal state and FEMA approval, once it is adopted by the Board of Supervisors, OES staff will work with Cal OES and FEMA on their review of the plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost of the contracting firm was \$25,000. \$18,750 of the contracting cost – which is 75% of the contract cost – was offset with a FEMA hazard mitigation grant, leaving a County General Fund support cost of \$6,750. Staff support from the various planning team agencies is estimated to be \$9,000 for a total cost of \$34,000 for the update and a General Fund

support cost total of \$15,750. This project and the cost were incurred in both FY 2012-2013 and 2013-2014; an estimated \$12,187 was expended in FY 2012-2013, and an estimated \$21,813 in the current FY of 2013-2014 for the total estimated cost of \$34,000.

RESULTS

As projects noted in the LHMP are implemented, the results will include reducing risk from natural hazards by identifying resources, information, and strategies for risk reduction, while helping to guide and coordinate actual mitigation activities. Another signification result is that the County and the Flood Control and Water Conservation District will remain eligible for certain federal hazard mitigation grants.